

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012426

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CHEROKEE EYES ONLY FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BUCHAREST DTD 17 JAN 1978 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0311

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: GW RO SHUM

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON DISCUSSION OF
HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WITH ROMANIANS

REF: BUCHAREST 0223

1. FRG AMBASSADOR BALKEN HAS CONVEYED TO ME CHANCELLOR
HELMUT SCHMIDT'S IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT TETE-A-TETE WITH
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON BILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
WHICH CHANCELLOR ASKED BE CONVEYED TO SECRETARY VANCE
IN PROTECTED PRIVATE CHANNEL.

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2. WHILE NOT AT ALL PUBLICIZED, TALKS ON EMIGRATION AND
OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED ON PRIOR TO
SCHMIDT VISIT IN BONN AND IN BUCHAREST BETWEEN FRG STATE
SECRETARY GUENTHER VAN WELL AND VASILE PUNGAN, HEAD OF
CEAUSESCU'S GROUP OF COUNSELORS. IN BUCHAREST SCHMIDT
AND CEAUSESCU DISCUSSED EMIGRATION DURING TETE-A-TETE

LASTING OVER TWO HOURS. WHILE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT AND NO WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING NUMBERS, SCHMIDT'S EXPECTATION IS THAT FRG WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED BY FUTURE ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE. MOST RECENT ANNUAL FIGURE FOR EMIGRATION TO FRG WAS BETWEEN 10 AND 11,000, THE HIGHEST FIGURE SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1967. IF SAME FIGURES ARE REACHED DURING NEXT TWO YEARS, FRG FEELING IS THAT MAJOR PRESSURE ON PROBLEM WILL BE RELIEVED. BALKEN ESTIMATED THERE IS AT OUTSIDE A POTENTIAL TOTAL OF 80,000 GERMANO-ROMANIANS WHO CONSIDERED EMIGRATING TO FRG.

3. BALKEN SAID TALKS WERE FRIENDLY BUT WITH ROMANIANS HOLDING TO THEIR POSITION THAT THEY DO NOT AT ALL ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION BUT DO AGREE TO DEAL WITH FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND BINATIONAL MARRIAGE PROBLEMS IN THE SPIRIT OF RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. PARAGRAPH ON FAMILY REUNION IN JOINT PERSISTENT AND UNWAVERING FRG INSISTENCE. IN TETE-A-TETE SCHMIDT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY LINK CONTINUING GERMAN FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION TO ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT HE DID MAKE CLEAR TO CEAUSESCU THAT THESE QUESTIONS WERE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN OVERALL FRG RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIA AND WEIGHTED IN BALANCE OF DECISIONS ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS.

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4. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ASKED THAT SECRETARY VANCE BE INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH FRG BELIEVE INDICATE THAT QUIET APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROMANIANS CAN BE PRODUCTIVE. V. AGGREY UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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